



Decision Memo
Public Grove Road 015 Removal
Ogden District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Weber, Utah
May 2021

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document details my decision regarding making changes to the Ogden Travel Plan in the Public Grove Area. The proposal includes removing the 015 road from the Ogden Travel Plan.

The 015 road is a dead-end road approximately one-third of a mile in length. This road has been the site of significant resource damage and because of that damage it has been closed by a special order for two years.

Project number in the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System database: 59273

General Location: The project is located in Public Grove.

2.0 PROPOSED ACTION

The Forest Service is proposing the following activities and the decision will be implemented by the Forest Service with the help of local partners.

Road Obliteration

Heavy equipment will be used to rehabilitate road 015 by scarifying the road surface and removing any improvements in the roadway. Once scarified and improvements removed the disturbed area will be seeded with a seed mix approved by the forest botanist. The current fence along the Public Grove Road will be maintained to limit access to the rehabilitated road 015.

All work will follow best management practices.

2.1 Design Criteria

- The 015 road has been closed for the last two years additional work may be needed to protect watershed values. Rehabilitation of the routes should be closely coordinated with watershed resources to ensure the appropriate equipment is utilized and the rehabilitation of degraded watershed resources is achieved.
- All existing infestations within/adjacent to project area should be treated prior to project implementation.
- Do not stage equipment, materials, or crews in invasive plant populations.
- All equipment should be cleaned and free of vegetation, soil, and debris prior to beginning work on Forest Service land.
- Revegetation should be initiated as promptly as practical. Seed only where natural regeneration of desirable species is unlikely or is susceptible to or threatened by invasive or noxious plants. Seed mix will be approved by the Forest Service and certified weed free.
- For at least three years after project completion, treat invading noxious weeds as needed on areas impacted by ground disturbing operations.

3.0 DECISION AND RATIONALE

My decision is to authorize the proposed action along with the required design criteria as described in section 2, above.

Based on environmental analysis and input from an interdisciplinary team of Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest resource specialists, I have determined that this action may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. In particular, this action falls under *36 CFR 220.6(e)(1) - Construction and reconstruction of trails* and *36 CFR 220.6(e)(20) - Activities that restore, rehabilitate, or stabilize lands occupied by roads and trails, including unauthorized roads and trails and National Forest System roads and National Forest System trails to a more natural condition that may include removing, replacing, or modifying drainage structures and ditches, reestablishing vegetation, reshaping natural contours and slopes, reestablishing drainage-ways, or other activities that would restore site productivity and reduce environmental impacts.*

The seven resource conditions that are considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement are discussed below. As per Chapter 30, Section 31.2 of Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, the mere presences of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion.

I have concluded that there are no extraordinary circumstances related to the decision that may result in a significant individual or cumulative environmental effect.

4.0 SCOPING

This project was listed in in the Planning, Appeals and Litigation System Database (PALS), reviewed by specialist in the UWC small National Environment Planning Act (NEPA) meeting and multiple field trips conducted with specialists to the site.

5.0 FOREST PLAN AND LEGAL CONSISTENCY

The project falls within prescription 3.1w Watershed Emphasis - Emphasis is on maintaining or improving quality of watershed conditions and aquatic habitats. Watershed function and aquatic habitat values are recognized as important and may require restoration to reach desired conditions. Areas of municipal watershed and public drinking water sources will be managed to maintain or improve soil processes and watershed conditions. Where improvement is needed, it is achieved by implementing watershed improvement projects, and by applying soil and water conservation practices to land-disturbing activities.

Closure of the road will lead to greater resource protection of the meadow at the end of the road.


I find that the proposed action is fully consistent with the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, as well as in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Specifically; the National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Clean Water Act; Congressional designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or National Recreation Areas; Inventoried Roadless Areas; Research Natural Areas; Native American religious or cultural sites, archaeological sites, or historical properties or areas; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Environmental Justice (Executive Order 12898).

6.0 OBJECTION OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPLEMENTATION

My decision is not subject to administrative appeal or objection, as outlined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 and the Agricultural Act of 2014. This decision may be implemented immediately.

7.0 CONTACT PERSON

For additional information about the project, contact David Ashby at david.ashby@usda.gov or 435-755-3620.



Sean Harwood
District Ranger
Ogden Ranger District

6-6-2021

Date

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